UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/L.189
12 April 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-fourth session
27 May-7 June 1991

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

To be convened at Graz, Austria, on
Monday, 27 May 1991, at 3 p.m.

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Statement by the Chairman.
4. Election of a new Chairman.
5. General exchange of views.
6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.*
7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its twenty-eighth session (A/AC.105/483).
8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session (A/AC.105/484).
9. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

---

* Priority item in accordance with paragraph 26 of General Assembly resolution 45/72.

READEX
FICHE

10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.

11. Other matters.

12. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

ANNOTATIONS*

Item 1: Opening of the session

1. The Foreign Minister of Austria, Mr. Alois Mock, will make a statement. Statements will also be made on behalf of the Secretary-General, by the Governor of the Province of Styria and by the Mayor of the City of Graz.

Items 2 and 3: Adoption of the agenda

Statement by the Chairman

2. Following the formal opening of the session, the Committee will adopt its agenda and the organization of its work, after which the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its thirty-third session.

Item 4: Election of a new Chairman

3. The Committee will elect a new Chairman.

Item 5: General exchange of views

4. The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views. (Delegations wishing to speak under this item are asked to submit their names to the Outer Space Affairs Division as soon as possible.)

Item 6: Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

5. The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/72 of 11 December 1990, paragraph 26, requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

6. The General Assembly, in paragraph 28 of the same resolution, took note of the views expressed and documents circulated during the thirty-third session of the Committee and during the forty-fifth session of the Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

---

* The annotations are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee.

Item 7: Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its twenty-eighth session (A/AC.105/483)

7. At its twenty-eighth session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session 1/ and paragraph 7 of resolution 45/72, considered the following questions:

(a) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

8. The Subcommittee conducted, on a priority basis, a joint consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82). 2/ The Subcommittee's report contains a review of the Space Applications Programme and its activities for 1990 and 1991 and a proposed programme of activities for 1992 which it recommended for approval. 3/

9. Regarding the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system, the Subcommittee in its report continued to stress the necessity of ensuring such coordination. 4/

10. On the question of regional and interregional mechanisms of cooperation, the Subcommittee took note of the efforts undertaken as part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, in accordance with the UNISPACE 82 recommendation concerning the development of indigenous capabilities, to establish regional centres for space science and technology education in existing national or regional educational institutions in developing countries and urged Member States to support the development of such regional centres. 5/

(b) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including, inter alia, applications for developing countries

11. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item on a priority basis, and the views expressed are reflected in its report. 6/ The Subcommittee recommended that the item be retained on its agenda as a priority item for the next session. 7/

(c) Use of nuclear-power sources in outer space

12. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item on a priority basis and noted that, on the basis of the work done by its Working Group on the question at its last session, the Legal Subcommittee's Working Group on the question had been able to agree on a text for draft principle 3 relating to guidelines and criteria for safe use (A/AC.105/457, annex I, para. 12). The Subcommittee also noted that the scientific and technical guidelines and

criteria for the safe use of nuclear-power sources in outer space could, in the future, be reviewed and revised as necessary, as provided in draft principle 12 of the draft principles contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.154/Rev.7. 8/

13. The Subcommittee took note of a working paper submitted by the United States of America (A/AC.105/C.1/L.176, subsequently reissued as A/AC.105/485), which, according to that delegation, revisited certain portions of the Subcommittee's recommendations underlying draft principle 3, with a view to the Subcommittee's making specific modifications to ensure the technical accuracy of the recommendations, as a step towards contributing further to the substantial progress made in the Subcommittee on the subject. 9/

14. The Subcommittee agreed that further studies should be conducted on the problem of the collision of nuclear-power sources with space debris and that it should be kept informed of the results of such studies. 10/

15. The Subcommittee recommended that the item be retained on its agenda for the next session and that the question of reconvening the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space be considered by the Committee at the current session in the light of the work carried out by the Legal Subcommittee on the subject at its thirtieth session. 11/

(d) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space

16. During the course of its discussion on this item, the Subcommittee took note of the developments in the various programmes relating to space transportation systems. 12/ It recommended that consideration of the item be continued at its next session. 13/

(e) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

17. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 70 to 74 of its report. It recommended that consideration of the item be continued at its next session. 14/

(f) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine

(g) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme

(h) Matters relating to planetary exploration

(i) Matters relating to astronomy

18. The Subcommittee continued consideration of these items, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 76-80, 82-87, 89, 90, 92 and 93 of its report. With regard to (g) above, the Subcommittee took note of a working paper on the subject submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/AC.105/C.1/L.174). 15/ It recommended that consideration of these items be continued at its next session. 16/

(j) The theme fixed for the special attention of the 1991 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral groundwater resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries"

19. The Subcommittee paid special attention to this theme and noted with satisfaction that a special symposium organized by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) on the theme had taken place. The Subcommittee also took note of a working paper on the subject submitted by the USSR (A/AC.105/C.1/L.173). 17/

20. The Subcommittee set out in paragraph 115 of its report the new theme fixed for special attention at its twenty-ninth session: "Space technology and the protection of the Earth's environment: development of endogenous capabilities, in particular in the developing countries and in the context of International Space Year".

(k) Other matters

21. The Subcommittee noted that the General Assembly, in paragraphs 19 and 20 of its resolution 45/72, had urged Member States and international organizations to consider supporting the efforts of the United Nations in connection with International Space Year (ISY), 1992, and had endorsed its recommendation that Member States, in planning their activities for the Year, consider ways in which those activities could complement the efforts under way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also planned for 1992. The Subcommittee recommended that the secretariat of the Conference be invited to provide the Committee with information on the preparations for the Conference and that the United Nations Secretariat should continue to inform the secretariat of the Conference on matters relating to the Committee that were of relevance to the Conference. 18/

22. Observing that the Secretary-General had sent a note verbale to Member States inviting additional proposals and voluntary contributions in support of United Nations ISY activities, the Subcommittee expressed its appreciation to the Member States and international organizations that had made voluntary contributions or were planning to so do and urged other Member States and international organizations to consider supporting additional scientific and technical activities in cooperation with the United Nations as part of the Year. The Subcommittee noted that it was particularly important to increase the voluntary contributions for activities which would be carried out during the year through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. 19/

23. On the question of the space and Earth environment, 20/ the Subcommittee noted that the General Assembly, in paragraph 21 of resolution 45/72, had recommended that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment.

24. The Subcommittee also noted that the General Assembly, in paragraph 22 of the same resolution, had considered that it was essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions with space debris and other aspects of space debris, and called for the continuation of national research on the question. The Subcommittee took note of a working paper on the subject submitted by Germany (A/AC.105/C.1/L.170). 21/

25. The Subcommittee noted further that the General Assembly, in resolution 45/72, had considered that space debris could be an appropriate subject for discussion by the Committee in the future. 22/

26. The views expressed on several other matters are covered in paragraphs 111 to 113 of the Subcommittee's report.

27. The Subcommittee set out in its report, in particular in paragraphs 114 to 116, the proposed agenda items for its twenty-ninth session, including the new theme fixed for special attention at that session (see para. 20 above), and recommended that COSPAR and IAF, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme.

Item 8: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session (A/AC.105/484)

28. At its thirtieth session, the Legal Subcommittee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/72, paragraph 4, considered the following matters:

(a) The elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space, with the aim of finalizing the draft set of principles

29. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, continued its consideration of this item; a summary of the discussion in the Working Group is contained in annex I to the report of the Subcommittee. 23/

(b) Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

30. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, continued its consideration of this item; a summary of the discussion in the Working Group is contained in annex II to the report of the Subcommittee.

(c) Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries

31. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, which met for the first time, continued its consideration of this item. The various views expressed on the item are contained in annex III to the report of the Subcommittee.

(d) Organization of work

32. The Subcommittee adopted a number of decisions concerning the organization of its work, as contained in paragraphs 12-14 of its report.

Item 9: Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

33. As mentioned in paragraph 8 above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee conducted, on a priority basis, a joint consideration of this item and of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Subcommittee, in its report, noted developments relating to the International Space Information Service, studies, inter-agency cooperation and regional and interregional mechanisms of cooperation. 24/

34. The Subcommittee reconvened, in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 45/72, the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Subcommittee adopted the report of the Working Group, 25/ which contains recommendations addressed to the Committee on the further implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 and the work of the Secretariat. 26/

Item 10: Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

35. The General Assembly, in paragraph 27 of resolution 45/72, requested the Committee to continue to consider at its thirty-fourth session its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status". At its last session, the Committee recommended that the Outer Space Affairs Division undertake a study of spin-offs, on the basis of information provided by Member States. That study is contained in document A/AC.105/486.

Item 11: Other matters

36. The Committee will have before it a report on the scientific and technical presentations made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. 27/ Additional reports may be submitted to the Committee as available. The Committee may wish to discuss other matters as appropriate.

37. The Committee, at its thirty-third session, agreed that discussions on the question of the venue of the Legal Subcommittee's future sessions would continue at the current session with a view to reaching agreement on the venue of subsequent sessions, taking into account General Assembly resolution 44/201 B (sect. III) of 21 December 1989. 28/

Item 12: Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/45/20), para. 141.

2/ A/AC.105/483, paras. 18-45.

3/ Ibid., paras. 26-35.

4/ Ibid., para. 41.

5/ Ibid., para. 43.

6/ Ibid., paras. 46-52.

7/ Ibid., para. 53.

8/ Ibid., paras. 55 and 56.

9/ Ibid., para. 58.

10/ Ibid., para. 63.

11/ Ibid., para. 64.

12/ Ibid., paras. 65-68.

Notes (continued)

13/ Ibid., para. 69.

14/ Ibid., para. 75.

15/ Ibid., para. 86.

16/ Ibid., paras. 81, 88, 91 and 94.

17/ Ibid., paras. 95.

18/ Ibid., paras. 99 and 102.

19/ Ibid., para. 100.

20/ Ibid. paras. 105-110.

21/ Ibid., para. 106.

22/ Ibid., para. 108.

23/ A/AC.105/484, annex I.

24/ A/AC.105/483, para. 19.

25/ Ibid., annex II.

26/ Ibid., paras. 4-6.

27/ A/AC.105/487.

28/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/45/20), para. 147.

Annex

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF WORK

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Monday, 27 May		Item 1 - Opening of the session Item 2 - Adoption of the Agenda Item 3 - Statement by the Chairman Item 4 - Election of a new Chairman Item 5 - General exchange of views
Tuesday, 28 May	Item 5 - (continued)	Item 5 - (continued)
Wednesday, 29 May	Item 5 - (continued)	Item 6 - Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
Thursday, 30 May	Item 6 - (continued)	Item 6 - (continued)
Friday, 31 May	Item 7 - Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee* Item 9 - Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*	Item 7 - (continued) Item 9 - (continued)
Monday, 3 June	Item 7 - Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (continued) Item 9 - Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (continued)	Item 8 - Report of the Legal Subcommittee

/...

* As in the past, items 7 and 9 will be considered jointly.

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Tuesday, 4 June	Item 8 - (continued)	Item 8 - (continued)
Wednesday, 5 June	Item 10 - Spin-off benefits of space technology	Item 10 - (continued)
Thursday, 6 June	Item 11 - Other matters	Item 12 - Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
Friday, 7 June	Item 12 - (continued)	Item 12 - (continued)